

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198353

LIMDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR EDWIN M. MARTIN

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 12287 ACTION DEPT SEP 9TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12287

LIMDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY PROPOSAL: FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VIEWS

1. SUMMARY: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL IS PLANNING TO MAKE COUNTER-PROPOSAL MODIFYING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NEW WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY. FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL IS SKEPTICAL ON BASIS OF HIS OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES ABOUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE HEAVILY TO PROPOSED FUNDS, AND QUESTIONS DESIRABILITY OF MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IF THEY WILL NOT OBTAIN FUNDS FOR WHICH THEY WERE DEvised. END SUMMARY.

2. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA, WHO
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HAD JUST RETURNED FROM AFRICAN TOUR, TOLD NEWLY-ARRIVED U.S. PERMA-

NENT REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO IN CONFIDENCE ON SEPTEMBER 6, ASKING NOT TO BE QUOTED, TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSAL MODIFYING WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL MAREI'S PLAN FOR NEW WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY (CHAPTER 20 OF HIS WORLD FOOD PROBLEM PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION, ITEM 9 OF PROVISIONAL AGENDAN, E/CONF 65/4, AUGUST 1974). BOERMA PERCEIVES KEY OF PROPOSED WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY AS ITS SEVERAL BILLION DOLLAR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS, WHICH MAREI HOPES ARAB STATES AND UNITED STATES WILL UNDERWRITE. THERE ARE OTHER METHODS OF OBTAINING FINANCES, SUCH AS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BANKS OR UNDP, BUT BOERMA CONCEDES THERE WOULD BE MUCH VALUE TO MAREI'S PROPOSAL IF INDEED IT CAN ELICIT FUNDING ARAB STATES MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDE. MAREI REPORTEDLY BELIEVES HE HAS ARAB STATES LINED UP, BUT THEY ARE UNWILLING TO COMMIT THEMSELVES PUBLICLY AT THIS STAGE, BEFORE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE COMMITTED. BOERMA, HOWEVER, IS SKEPTICAL ABOUT WILLINGNESS OF ARAB COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE HEAVILY, ON BASIS OF HIS OWN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM. BOERMA REPORTS THAT KUWAIT REPRESENTATIVES, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOWED INTEREST IN JOINTING WITH FAO IN WORTHY PROJECTS IN WHICH KUWAIT HAS INTEREST. BOERMA STRONGLY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT KUWAIT AND OTHER ARAB STATES WILL NOT BE WILLING TO WRITE BLANK CHECK AND LET NEW AUTHORITY CONTROL DECISIONS ON USE OF THEIR FUNDS. HE NOTED OMAN IS ONLY ARAB OIL COUNTRY THAT HAS INSCRIBED TO ATTEND WORKING PARTY MEETING PRELIMINARY TO THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. BOERMA SAID HE FINDS IT AWKWARD TO TAKE A POSITION SOMEWHAT OPPOSING MAREI'S PLAN, BUT BELIEVES HE MUST TAKE A STAND.

3. FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL JACKSON HAD TOLD U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SEPTEMBER 5 THAT HE AND BOERMA'S OTHER IMMEDIATE SUBORDINATES WERE ADVISING BOERMA TO REMAIN ON SCENE DURING MEETINGS IN ROME SEPTEMBER 16-OCTOBER 4 PRELIMINARY TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. JACKSON IS ATTENDING FAO FAR EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING IN BOERMA'S PLACE.

4. IN VIEW OF SENSITIVITY OF THIS TELEGRAM AND OF BOERMA'S REQUEST INFORMATION BE HANDLED WITH PARTICULAR DISCRETION, WE ARE NOT REPEATING TELEGRAM TO OTHER POSTS AS WE NORMALLY WOULD. WE LEAVE IT TO DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE WHAT DISTRIBUTION IT WISHES TO GIVE IT. VOLPE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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